

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 268207

63

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 AGR-05 L-03 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01

CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04 /044 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:NC:TWSONANDRES

APPROVED BY ARA:NC - MR. DEVINE

ARA:ECP - MR. LACEY (INFO)

ARA:LA:MRSD:L - MR. O'GRADY (SUBS)

USDA:FAS - MR. TISCH (PHONE)

S:IL - MR. GOOD (PHONE)

----- 111400

P 122115Z NOV 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, VE, US

SUBJECT: BOYCOTT OF US GRAPES

REF: CARACAS 10997

1. UNITED FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLE ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE JACK STUDEBAKER INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT A NUMBER OF VENEZUELAN GRAPE IMPORTERS ARE SUFFICIENTLY UNCERTAIN OF CTV STEVEDORES WILLINGNESS TO UNLOAD GRAPES THAT THEY ARE WITHHOLDING LETTERS OF CREDIT, THUS THREATENING SUBSTANTIAL SALES OF US GRAPES TO VENEZUELAN CHRISTMAS MARKET. MR. STUDEBAKER STATED THAT HE IS ATTEMPTING TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM THROUGH CONTACT WITH THE TEAMSTERS AND AFL-CIO AND, VIA CALIFORNIA PRODUCERS, WITH VENEZUELAN GRAPE IMPORTERS, BUT SO FAR WITHOUT SUCCESS. HE REQUESTED

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PAGE 02 STATE 268207

DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THE NEXT

SHIPMENT WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO DEPART FOR VENEZUELA
ON NOVEMBER 26.

2. MR. STUDEBAKER SUBSEQUENTLY PHONED BACK NOVEMBER 11
TO REPORT THAT SEVERAL VENEZUELAN GRAPE ORDERS HAD COME IN
AND IT APPEARED THAT THE NOVEMBER 26 SHIPMENT WOULD BE MADE.
HE NONETHELESS REQUESTED DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE IN ENDING
BOYCOTT. ARA:NC:V RESPONDED THAT WE WOULD CABLE EMBASSY

CARACAS ON THE MATTER, BUT SUGGESTED THAT HIS PRESENT
EFFORTS WITH US LABOR ORGANIZATIONS AND THE GRAPE IMPORT-
ERS OFFERED THE MOST APPROPRIATE CHANNEL TO RESOLVE THE
ISSUE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE AN UPDATED
EMBASSY READING OF THE SITUATION IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO
MR. STUDEBAKER, BUT WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE USG
SHOULD NOT STIR UP THE POT ON THIS ONE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GRAPES, BOYCOTTS, LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE268207
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NC:TWSONANDRES
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750394-0407
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751153/aaaabvms.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CARACAS 10997
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 SEP 2003 by RowellE0>; APPROVED <30 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOYCOTT OF US GRAPES
TAGS: ELAB, EAGR, ETRD, VE, US
To: CARACAS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006